

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /120 W

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R 051315Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9622

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO BURUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL HELSNKI 257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH CONCESSIONAL CREDIT TO CUBA

REF: HELSINKI 243 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REPRESENTATIONS (REFTEL) DCM RAISED WITH HEAD POLITICAL DEPT. ILONIEMI US DISTRESS AT FINNISH GRANT TEN MILLION MARK CONCESSIONAL CREDIT TO CUBA WHILE CUBA SUPPORTING LARGE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN ANGOLA. ILONIEMI SOUGHT TO DEFEND FINNISH ACTION IN TWO WAYS.

2. ILONIEMI ASSERTED FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA INTERPRETED AMBASSADOR'S JANUARY 16 CONVERSATION MERELY AS SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE OPPOSITION WITHIN FINLAND TO FINNISH AID TO A CUBA WHICH WAS EXPORTING REVOLUTION. ILONIEMI SAID SORSA DID NOT

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INTERPRET THE CONVERSATION AS AN EXPRESSION OF US CONCERN. DCM

RESPONDED THAT US MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, WRITTEN BY EMBOFF WHO ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR, READ THAT AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN AT CUBAN ACTIONS IN ANGOLA.

3. ILONIEMI THEN SAID IT WAS NOT WISE FOR US TO PUT TOO MUCH STRESS ON FINNISH AID TO CUBA. AFTER ALL, US NATO ALLIES SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS WERE ALSO GIVING AID TO CUBA AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU HAD VERY VISIBLY EMBRACED CASTRO ON A TRIP TO HAVANA AFTER FACTS OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WERE WELL KNOWN. DCM REMARKED THAT COUNTRIES LIKE THE NETHERLANDS AND PARTICULARLY CANADA PERHAPS HAD LESS IMMEDIATE REASON TO FEAR SOVIET EXPANSIONISM THAN FINLAND. PERHAPS MARX WAS TOO MODEST IN HIS REMARK THAT THE CAPITALIST WOULD SELL THE ROPE THE SOVIETS WOULD USE TO HANG THE CAPITALISTS; MARX SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT THE CAPITALISTS WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS THE ROPE ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS.

4. COMMENT: EMB DOES NOT SEE HOW IT CAN PUSH FINNS MUCH MORE TO CUT BACK ON AID TO CUBA UNLESS NATO ALLIES PUBLICLY DEMONSTRATE THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF CUBAN INTERVENTIONISM.

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